

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: January 2015 – O-101

DATE: January 21, 2015

TO: Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Gayle Murphy, Senior Director, Admissions

SUBJECT: Recognition of Contributions of Retired Psychometric Consultant Stephen P. Klein

BACKGROUND

Upon their retirement, the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) has recognized the long-term service of independent contractors who have assisted the Committee of Bar Examiners with carrying out its responsibilities.

DISCUSSION

Stephen P. Klein, Ph.D. has served as the Committee's psychometric consultant since the late 1970's. The first report relating to the Committee's activities, which I am aware of, is entitled: "An Analysis of Grading Practices on the California Bar Examination," which is dated December 15, 1977. Among the recommendations in the report were "...that the Committee of Bar Examiners conduct a content analysis of recent test questions so as to (1) determine which topics and issues within a given content area have been over- or under-stressed, and (2) provide a basis for subsequent question development and selection." Also in the report, he recommended several processes to improve grader calibration, many of which are still in existence today, such as collaborating in the grading of a set of about 25 answers to help establish grading standards. Over the years in addition to standard reports, he has prepared, often with the assistance of his colleague Roger Bolus, Ph.D. over 35 reports for the Committee.

Dr. Klein retired from his consultant position late last year. Given his lengthy service as the Committee's consultant and his role in ensuring that California's examinations continue to be developed and graded in a valid, reliable, and fair manner, it would be appropriate for the Committee to consider honoring him with the presentation of an appropriate citation of recognition of many contributions.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Committee acknowledge Dr. Klein's service for the past 35 years and direct that a certificate be prepared and presented to him.

PROPOSED MOTION:

If the Committee agrees with this recommendation, the following motion is suggested:

Move that the service of the Committee's former psychometric consultant, Stephen P. Klein, be recognized and that a certificate be prepared and presented to him acknowledging his over 35 years of outstanding service on behalf of the Committee and his many positive contributions associated with the format, development and grading of the California Bar Examination and the First-Year Law Students' Examination.